

An Overview of Speckle Park Registration

This document is an overview and does not replace the By-laws of CSPA.

Closed Herd Book The Speckle Park Herd Book was closed at the end of 2006 so that Speckle Park could become a distinct breed. This means that all registered Speckle Park must have two registered Speckle Park parents. No new half bred or percentage animals can be admitted to the Herd Book.

Registered Speckle Park All purebred Speckle Park are registered. Not all registered Speckle Park are purebred. Purebred and registered are not interchangeable terms.

Four Classes of Registered Speckle Park Speckle Park are registered in one of four classes; the abbreviations PB, FS, PT, or AP are placed at the end of an animal's registration number.

Purebred (PB)

Foundation Stock (FS)

Percentage (PT)

Appendix (AP)

The Rules of Eligibility for each of these classes are in the By-laws of the Canadian Speckle Park Association, sections 15, 16 and 17 and include the characteristics and conditions which make an animal ineligible for registration.

Purebred (PB) Purebred Speckle Park have a minimum of 96.9% of Speckle Park blood; have two registered parents and are at least the third consecutive generation of the breed characteristic colour patterns. Purebred Speckle Park receive "PB" at the end of their registration number and do not have a percentage recorded on their CSPA registration papers.

Foundation Stock (FS) Foundation Stock are the animals inspected by a committee and then recommended to the Minister of Agriculture for approval to become the parents of the first purebred Speckle Park. To be considered for inclusion as Foundation Stock an animal had to be recorded with the CSPA, have a minimum of 93.8% Speckle Park blood and be at least the third consecutive generation displaying the characteristic Speckle Park colour patterns. Examination for inclusion as Foundation Stock ended when Speckle Park became a distinct breed.

Percentage (PT) The percentage section of the Speckle Park Herd Book is also closed. All percentage Speckle Park have parents registered by CSPA. Percentage Speckle Park includes all the Speckle Park which did not qualify for or were not examined as Foundation Stock when the Herd Book closed as well as the offspring of an Appendix parent and a registered FS, PB or PT parent.

A percentage Speckle Park which meets the requirements of the Purebred class will be treated as a foundation stock equivalent and registered as purebred.

Percentages assigned to PT Speckle Park are one of 50, 75, 87.5, 93.8 or 96.9 percent. No animal will be assigned a percentage between these; and no animal will be assigned a percentage higher than 96.9%.

The offspring of PT bulls of less than 87.5% are ineligible for registration in. There are special rules for the registration of offspring of bulls of 87.5%.

There are solid black percentage Speckle Park.

Appendix (AP) Appendix Speckle Park are the solid black offspring of PB and/or FS Speckle Park. Appendix Speckle Park may be bred to PB, FS or PT Speckle Park and their offspring will be registered as PT with the appropriate percentage designation. Solid black Speckle Park which are the progeny of two solid black parents are ineligible for registration in any class of Speckle Park.

Commercial Speckle Park Unregistered Speckle Park of all classes and crossbreds of Speckle Park of whatever percentages of Speckle Park blood are considered commercial Speckle Park.

Commercial Purebred Since the Canadian *Animal Pedigree Act* specifies that purebreds are registered, the labels “commercial purebred” or “unregistered purebred” are actually a contradiction in terms at best and at worst an offense under the *Act*. These animals are commercial Speckle Park!

Are purebreds 100%? No! Nor are there 98.5% Speckle Park! The Rules of Eligibility for any class of Speckle Park do not have any reference to 100%; 100% does not occur on any Speckle Park registration paper. FS, PB and AP Speckle Park do not have any designated or published percentage on their registration papers. See the Rules of Eligibility for the calculation of the percentages of their PT offspring. The on-line pedigree data provided by CLRC includes a line for “percentage of purity” which is accurate for PT Speckle Park; unfortunately the “100” for PB, FS and AP is a reflection of the computer’s system requirements and not the By-laws of CSPA.

Breed Characteristic Colour Patterns The Speckle Park breed characteristic colour patterns are: speckled, leopard and white with black points as are described in the Association’s Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. Speckle Park do produce solid black animals and these are registered as percentage or appendix Speckle Park.

Red Speckle Park Red Speckle Park of any of the patterns are ineligible for registration as Speckle Park in any class as are individuals with “with any portion of their head which has white hair with underlying pink skin or which show pinto markings are not eligible for registration.”

Scurred Speckle Park Speckle Park are a polled breed. Speckle Park showing horns are ineligible for registration in any class. Scurs are acceptable.

CSPA and CLRC The Canadian Speckle Park Association (CSPA) is incorporated under the *Animal Pedigree Act* for the purposes of registering Speckle Park and developing the breed. CSPA became a member of Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) and thus contracted with CLRC to provide registration services, record Association memberships and to collect the relevant fees. CLRC applies the CSPA member approved By-laws which contain the Rules of Eligibility for registering Speckle Park.

Why buy registered SP? Obviously knowledgeable cattlemen don’t buy on pedigree alone, but here are some reasons to insist that registration papers accompany any investment in Speckle Park.

- Accuracy of Pedigrees. CSPA requires that all Speckle Park must qualify against their sire by DNA test before registration. The registration paper ensures the accuracy of recorded parentage.
- Speckle Park Genetics. The pedigree for a registered Speckle Park assures the buyer that he is purchasing Speckle Park genetics and in what concentration.
- Resale Value. Speckle Park, especially bulls, are known for their longevity. Registration ensures resale value.
- Avoiding Incest. Although geneticists have been known to say, “When breeding purebred livestock, incest is best!” Most cattlemen desire to avoid the breeding of individuals which are too closely related.
- Hybrid Vigor. While the benefits of hybrid vigor is well known when breeding populations of different breeds, there is now evidence of a similar benefit from breeding relatively diverse lines within a breed. An accurate pedigree is essential to make this assessment.